



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

May 2015



# Recreation and Scenery Resource Report

## Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins Allotment Management Plan Project

Salmon/Scott River Ranger District, Klamath National Forest  
Siskiyou County, California

For Information Contact: [Sam Commarto](#)  
[Salmon/Scott River Ranger District](#)  
[Fort Jones, California](#)

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Proposed Actions and Alternatives Analyzed.....	2
Methodology .....	3
Compliance with law, regulation, policy, and the Forest Plan .....	3
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS).....	4
Visual Quality Objectives (VQO).....	4
Wild and Scenic River (WSR) analysis .....	5
Spatial and Temporal Bounding of Analysis Area .....	5
Projects Considered in Cumulative Effects Analysis .....	5
Affected Environment.....	5
Environmental Consequences .....	6
Alternative 1 – No Action, no grazing.....	6
Direct Effects and Indirect Effects.....	6
Cumulative Effects.....	6
Alternative 2 – Proposed Action.....	6
Direct and Indirect Effects .....	6
Cumulative Effects.....	7
Alternative 3 – Current Management .....	7
Direct and Indirect Effects .....	7
Cumulative Effects.....	8
Literature Cited .....	9
Appendix A- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Map .....	11
Appendix B- Visual Quality Objectives Map .....	12
Appendix C- Wild and Scenic River Designation Map.....	13

# Recreation and Scenery Report

## Introduction

This report serves to provide analysis of the Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins Allotment Management Plan (project) proposed action and alternatives with respect to the recreation and scenery resources for the Oak Knoll and Scott River Ranger Districts of the Klamath National Forest. It includes descriptions of the recreation resources within the project area and analysis of the potential effects to these resources for each of the Alternatives. Recreation and scenery analysis is largely guided by the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines as well as the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes and Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) of the Forest. Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) within the project area are analyzed under the ROS and VQOs in which they fall, as per the Forest Plan at 4-38 (USFS, 1994). There is no designated wilderness within the project area, however the wilderness character of the Inventoried Roadless Areas is considered. See the Inventoried Roadless Area report for more information and analysis. Portions of National Wild and Scenic River (WSR) designated lands fall within the boundary and are addressed in this report.

## Proposed Actions and Alternatives Analyzed

Three alternatives are analyzed in this report. For additional details of the alternatives, see the Environmental Assessment.

### Alternative 1-No Action (No grazing)

Under the No Action Alternative, commercial livestock grazing would be discontinued on federal lands in the Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins grazing allotments.

### Alternative 2- Proposed Action

The proposed project authorizes grazing permits under an Adaptive Management Strategy and updates the Allotment Management Plan for Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins allotments. See Chapter 2 of the Environmental assessment for a full description of the Proposed Action.

### Alternative 3- Current Management

The current management alternative would leave the Middle Tompkins allotment vacant and permit 25 cow/calf pairs (76 AUMs) on the Lake Mountain allotment from July 15 to October 15. The boundaries of the allotments would remain unchanged, the exclosures at Faulkstein Meadows and Lookout Spring would not be installed, and management actions would be limited to those allowable under the current permit.

**Table 1. Comparison of treatment by alternatives**

<b>Treatments</b>	<b>Alternative 1 No Action</b>	<b>Alternative 2 Proposed Action</b>	<b>Alternative 3 Current Management</b>
Number of Forest Service acres included in the Lake Mountain allotment	9,657	5,323	9,657
Number of Forest Service acres included in the Middle Tompkins allotment	14,738	16,772	14,738
Maximum AUMs permitted for grazing on the Lake Mountain Allotment	0	76	76
Maximum AUMs permitted for grazing on the Middle Tompkins allotment	0	250	0
Adaptive Management Strategy	No	Yes	Yes- but limited to the terms of the current permit
Lookout spring exclosure and trough	No	Yes	No
Faulkstein headcut exclosure	No	Yes	No
Willow Habitat Monitoring	No	Yes	No

## Methodology

Field site visits were conducted by the Recreation Officer during the summers of 2012 and 2013, including visits to the Tyler Meadows trailhead, adjacent Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary, Lake Mountain Lookout, Yellowjacket Springs dispersed camp and Faulkstein dispersed camp. The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Field Guide and corporate GIS Data, including the ROS, VQO, Concentrated Use Areas, Released Roadless, and Wild and Scenic River layers were used in the analysis of this project and preparation of this document.

## Analysis Indicators and Affected Environment

### ***Compliance with law, regulation, policy, and the Forest Plan***

Applicable Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines (below) will be met by the Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins Grazing Allotment project.

*11-4 Perpetuate the ecologically established landscape character when implementing management activities. Manage activities in accordance with VQOs to reflect the form, line, color, and texture of natural occurrences.*

*12-26 ROS classes identified for management areas emphasize general direction for recreation management. Specific ROS criteria and conditions are subject to adjustment in order to achieve desired conditions.*

*14-1 Released roadless areas [IRAs] will be managed according to the objectives of the management area in which they occur.*

*MA3-24 – Permit grazing within Wild River areas. AOIs shall be modified to be consistent with Wild River management objectives. Livestock improvements shall meet all management goals for the area.*

*MA12-22 – Permit grazing within Scenic River areas. Modify AOIs to be consistent with Scenic River management objectives. Livestock improvements shall meet all management objectives for the area.*

*MA13-18 – Permit grazing within Recreational River areas. Modify AOIs to be consistent with Recreational River management goals. Livestock improvements shall meet all management goals for the area.*

### ***Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)***

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes emphasize the general direction for recreation and scenery management, and also provide guidance related to recreation site management. The ROS is used to provide a framework for understanding how management decisions may affect the recreation experience of the forest visitor, and the degree to which certain types of management are compatible with an area's designation. Each class has limits of acceptable change within the following 7 setting indicators: Access, Remoteness, Naturalness, Facilities, Social Encounters, Visitor Impacts and Visitor Management, which are used to determine the levels of management that are *Fully Compatible*, *Normal*, *Incompatible*, or *Unacceptable* within that class. When analyzing range management projects, the *Site Management* indicator is used to analyze for allowable range structures and installations while the *Naturalness* setting indicator is used to determine the amount of perceptible disturbance that is allowed. The *naturalness* indicator will tier to the Visual Quality Objective in which it falls (see next paragraph).

This project is comprised of two ROS classes, Rural and Roaded Natural. Please see Appendix A for a map of the ROS classes within the allotments.

### ***Visual Quality Objectives (VQO)***

Visual Quality Objectives are sometimes derived from ROS classes, however within the project area the VQOs identified in the Forest Plan and GIS layers are often more restrictive than the ROS class would indicate. Therefore, the more restrictive Forest Plan VQOs are followed.

The vast majority of the project area falls under the Partial Retention VQO, defined as “A VQO which in general means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape” (USFS, 1974). As many as 1,776 acres of the more restrictive Retention VQO is present in the project area. Retention VQO prescribes that “signs of management activities are not apparent”. Two other VQOs, Modification and Maximum Modification, are

found in the project area as well. Please see Appendix B for a map of the VQO within the allotments.

### **Wild and Scenic River (WSR) analysis**

With regards to Range management and domestic livestock grazing, the Forest Service is guided to “protect identified river values” (Handbook 1909.12, pp26) and “protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values” (PL 90-542, Sec.10).

Forest Plan Wild and Scenic River Management Areas (MA-3,12 and 13) each provide the following guidance: *Permit grazing within [Wild/Scenic/Recreational] River areas. Modify AOIs to be consistent with [Designated/Proposed] River management goals. Livestock improvements shall meet all management goals for the area.*

The project area contains lands adjacent to the Scott and Klamath Rivers, portions of which are designated as National Recreational Rivers (SC01, KL01) and lands adjacent to Grider Creek recommended to be included as National Wild Rivers (GR01) and recommended National Scenic Rivers (GR02). Analysis of these lands identifies the value for which these river reaches have been designated or recommended, and discussion regarding impacts to those values. Please see Appendix C for a map of the WSR designations within the allotments.

**Table 2. Recommended and Designated portions of Rivers in the Project Area and the Outstandingly Remarkable Value for which it has been recommended or designated**

<b>Recommended and Designated portions of Rivers in the Project Area</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Value</b>
Grider Creek (GR01)	Recommended Wild	Fisheries, Vegetation, Wildlife
Grider Creek (GR02)	Recommended Scenic	Wildlife
Scott River (SC01)	Designated Recreational	Fisheries
Klamath River (KL01)	Designated Recreational	Fisheries

### **Spatial and Temporal Bounding of Analysis Area**

Recreation and scenery resources are analyzed if they fall within the project boundary. The effects can be short-term (<1 year) or long-term (up to 10 years).

### **Projects Considered in Cumulative Effects Analysis**

- Westside Fire Recovery Project

### **Affected Environment**

The affected environment contains a variety of land allocations and management areas. These include Recommended Wild Rivers (MA-3), Recommended Scenic Rivers (MA-12), Designated Recreational River (MA-13), Retention VQO (MA-11), Partial Retention VQO (MA-15) and Three Inventoried Roadless Areas: Grider, Kelsey, and Tom Martin.

The project area is typically used by recreationists for dispersed camping, hunting, hiking, and, on the Scott and Klamath Rivers below, for recreational boating and fishing. Documentation and local knowledge of the area indicate that use is low and primarily related to hunting and firewood gathering. The nearby Tyler Meadows trailhead receives very little use and is not a popular portal into the Marble Mountain wilderness area. It is likely that short term use (1-5 years) will decrease further following the Happy Camp Complex fire. Analysis of affects to recreation are contained within ROS analysis and also located in the Inventoried Roadless Area report.

Within the boundary of the proposed allotments only the areas deemed Capable of use, Moderate Use or High Use by livestock were analyzed; these areas are grouped as “Acres Usable” in Table 3. Areas deemed Not Used were not analyzed as there is very little if any livestock grazing in of these areas. Incidental use (cattle passing through) of Not Used areas is also not analyzed because it is expected that these uses will be short lived in nature.

## **Environmental Consequences**

### ***Alternative 1 – No Action, no grazing***

#### **Direct Effects and Indirect Effects**

In the no action alternative, grazing will be discontinued on the Lake Mountain allotment and the Middle Tompkins allotment will remain vacant. There will be no improvements made at Lookout Spring or Faulkstein Meadows, and therefore no need to analyze the Site Management ROS setting indicator. Visual Quality Objectives would not be affected, as there would be no active management, and therefore no visual evidence of management. Wild and Scenic River would not be affected by the No Action alternative.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

There are no cumulative effects for alternative one as there are no direct or indirect effects.

### ***Alternative 2 – Proposed Action***

#### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

##### **ROS**

The proposed action includes the redevelopment of Lookout Spring, including a half-acre enclosure made of wire, wooden posts and T-posts in addition to a small primitive wood structure to protect a headcut near Faulkstein camp . Both improvements would occur within the Roaded Natural ROS class. Such improvements would be fully compatible with both ROS classes, as they each allow for “rustic facilities for some comfort” as well as site protection. Alternative 2 meets KNF LRMP Recreation Opportunity Spectrum guidelines.

#### **Scenery**



Effects to the scenery resource may occur in the Retention VQO as there are areas of *Capable, Moderate and High Use* that overlap in the project area. The desired condition for Retention VQO is that “signs of management activities are not apparent”; however there is likelihood that cattle will graze these areas. The proposed action eliminates 1,419 acres of Retention from the Lake Mountain allotment and adds 194 acres to the Middle Tompkins allotment, reducing the total acreage of Retention in the entire project area to 357 acres. These 357 acres are dispersed among 3 locations: the northeast corner of the Middle Tompkins Allotment, within a Designated Recreational River area; on the south end of the proposed addition to the Lake Mountain Allotment, within the Proposed Wild River area; and on the southwest edge of the Lake Mountain Allotment (see Appendix B). Under Alternative 2, any effects to Retention will be reduced proportionally by acreage, and signs of grazing will likely be transitory and minimal in scope. None of the permanent improvements (exclosures, troughs or spring developments) will be within Retention VQO. There will be a primitive log structure placed around a headcut near Faulkstein Camp in order to prevent resource damage and provide for passive restoration. This structure will be temporary, made of local native logs, and is expected to function until the logs disintegrate or sink below the surface. There is an overall reduction of Retention acres and the absence of permanent structures or installations within Retention VQO.

The overall project area is 85% Partial Retention VQO, which allows for evidence of management activities which are visually subordinate to the character of the landscape (LRMP, 4-167). Seasonal grazing at the permitted Head Months should have no negative impact on this VQO since that management activity is visually subordinate to the landscape and fits with the historic and scenic character of the region. Modification and Maximum Modification VQO’s allow for more management evidence, and therefore will also have no negative impacts by grazing.

Management should include monitoring of potential negative impacts to areas of Retention VQO and adaptive management of livestock in response to any such impacts (ie. herding, salting, etc.).

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Effects to the Wild and Scenic River resource will tier to the analysis of the resource for which the stretch of associated river was recommended or designated. Forest Plan guidance related to wildlife, fisheries and hydrology will be met through the Proposed Action, and therefore grazing is permitted according to MA 3-24, MA 12-22 and MA 13-18.

### **Cumulative Effects**

There are no cumulative effects for alternative two as there are no direct or indirect effects.

## ***Alternative 3 – Current Management***

### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

#### **ROS**

Current management (25 cow/calf pairs on Lake Mountain Allotment only) is fully compatible with Rural and Roaded Natural ROS classes and meets all Forest Standards and Guidelines.

### **Scenery**

Effects to the scenery resource may occur in the Retention VQO as there are areas of Capable, Moderate and High Use that overlap in the project area. The desired condition for Retention VQO is that “signs of management activities are not apparent”; however there is likelihood that cattle will graze these areas. This alternative/current management contains 1,677 acres of Retention VQO. This Alternative presents the greatest potential impact to Retention by cattle grazing due to the number of acres of overlap.

The overall project area is 85% Partial Retention VQO, which allows for evidence of management activities which are visually subordinate to the character of the landscape (LRMP, 4-167). Seasonal grazing at the permitted Head Months should have no negative impact on this VQO since the management activity is visually subordinate to the landscape and fits with the historic and scenic character of the region. Modification and Maximum Modification VQO’s allow for more management evidence, and therefore will also have no negative impacts by grazing.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Effects to the Wild and Scenic River resource will tier to the analysis of the resource for which the stretch of associated river was recommended or designated. Forest Plan guidance related to wildlife, fisheries and hydrology will be met through the Proposed Action, and therefore grazing is permitted according to MA 3-24, MA 12-22 and MA 13-18.

### **Cumulative Effects**

There are no cumulative effects for alternative three as there are no direct or indirect effects.

## Literature Cited

USFS, Facility Master Plan. Klamath National Forest, 2003.

USFS, Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Klamath National Forest 1994.

USFS, Klamath National Forest Recreation Facility Analysis, 5-year Program of Work and Programmatic Results of Implementation, 2008.

USFS, Klamath National Forest Recreation Settings Map. Klamath National Forest.

USFS, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Primer and Field Guide, USDA Forest Service R6-REC-021-90, 1990.

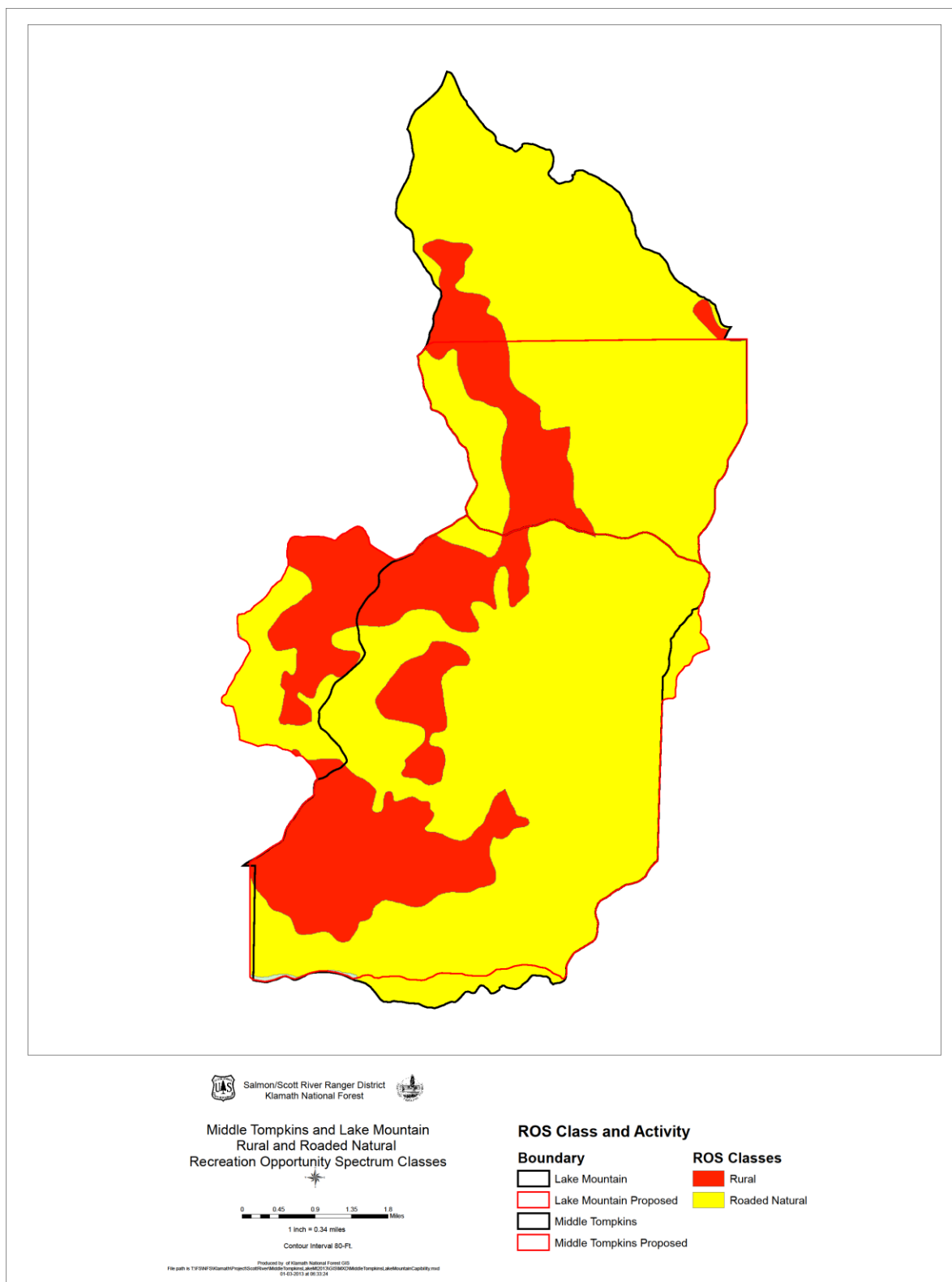
USFS, USDA, Forest Service. National Forest Landscape Management, 6 vol. 2. Handbook 462, pg 45. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1974

USFS Handbook 1909.12 Ch. 80 – Wild and Scenic River Evaluation, amended 2006.

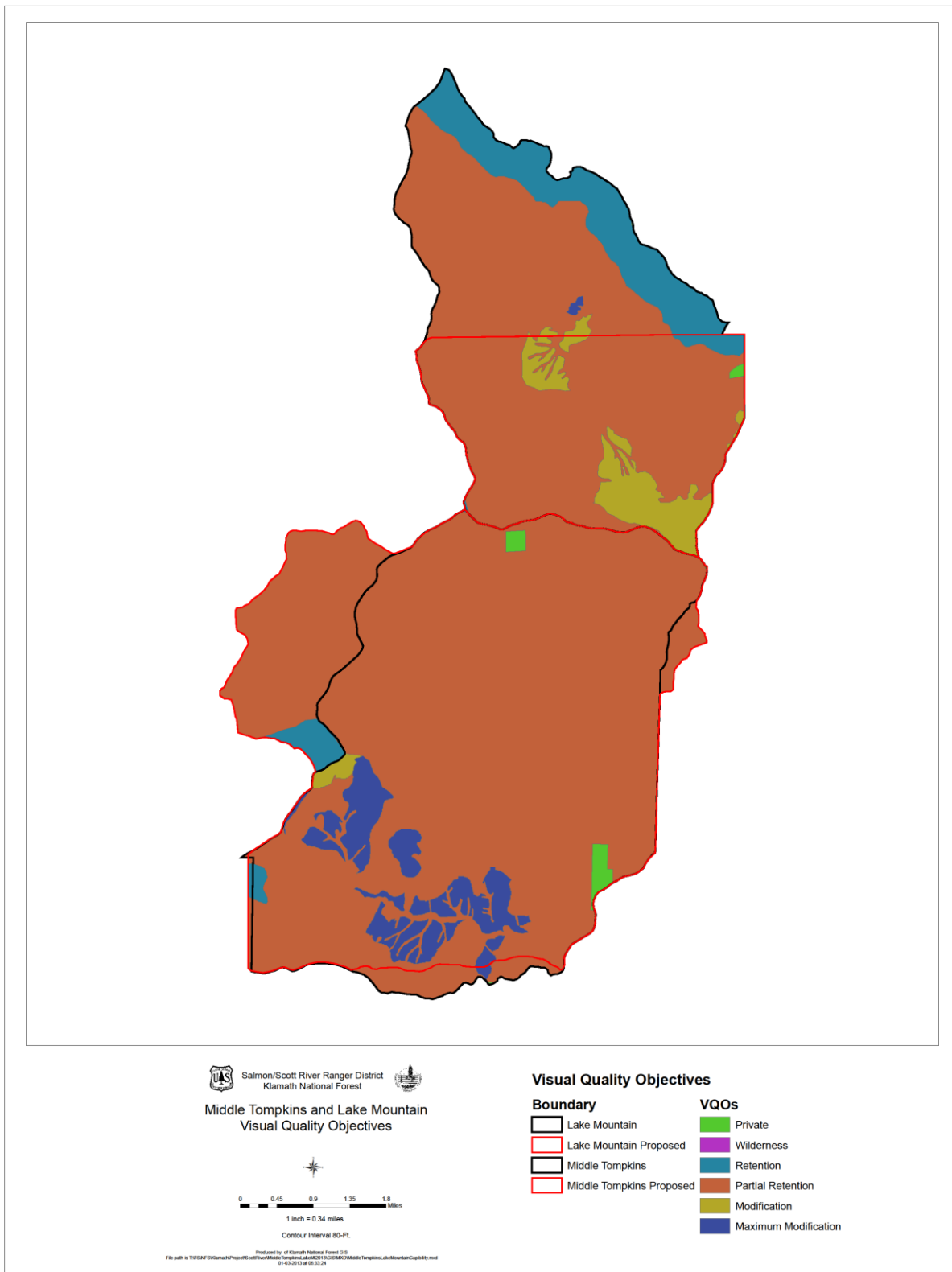
PL 90-542, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968



## Appendix A- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Map



## Appendix B- Visual Quality Objectives Map



## Appendix C- Wild and Scenic River Designation Map

